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336 Chestnut Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
August 1, 1999

Rick Breitenbach
CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: CALFED Phase 2 report

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

Please consider these comments in response to CALFED's Phase 2 report. Thanks to CalTrout, I was alerted to the damage threatened by the Phase 2 report in time to add my objections to the many that I expect you will receive from those members of the public aware of this proposal.

The report plans for far too many new, major dams. I am primarily motivated to make this point as a result of being an angler, beginning before I moved to California over 30 years ago. But I am also compelled to respond as an engineer, the profession that brought me to this state.

Dams ruin our rivers. Dams are an extremely expensive method of water storage. From my days working for an oil company, I recall that underground storage is an economic and safe method for storing water by merely injecting it into the appropriate formation.

Please emphasize water conservation in CALFED's plans. After enduring the drought in the 1980s in Santa Barbara, I developed a keen appreciation for how far a little water can go if it is efficiently delivered, rather than wasted.

In a nutshell, better solutions are available and should be considered now while we have a chance to be the best stewards we can be. Increase the reliance on groundwater storage instead of building the dams being planned in the Phase 2 report. By taking a conservationist's approach, we can provide water for fisheries and watersheds. You can further quality improvements for Bay-Delta waters without ruining our rivers.

Finally, who is to pay for all these new dams? I'm not interested in the most expensive and least environmentally sound approach. Please rethink your approach and focus on taking the best approach for California.

Yours truly,



Dennis W. Leski

copy to CalTrout